

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:SPDAWKINS:BAS
APPROVED BY EUR - JOHN A. ARMITAGE
EUR/RPE - MR. PREEG

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R 130045Z DEC 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 273319

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EI EEC
SUBJECT: IRISH AMBASSADOR CALLS ON ACTING ASST. SEC.
ARMITAGE

1. IRISH AMBASSADOR MOLLOY, PRIOR TO RETURN TO DUBLIN FOR HOLIDAYS, CALLED DECEMBER 11 AT HIS REQUEST ON EUR ACTING ASST. SECRETARY ARMITAGE FOR REVIEW OF US-EC, ENERGY AND RELATED ECONOMIC ISSUES.
 2. MOLLOY BEGAN BY MENTIONING PRESS SPECULATION ON POSSIBLE RECONCILIATION OF US AND FRENCH VIEW AT THE UPCOMING MEETING ON MARTINIQUE DEC, 14-16 BETWEEN PRESIDENTS
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FORD AND GISCARD D'ESTAING. ARMITAGE REPLIED THAT THAT

WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION SINCE WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT OIL CONSUMING NATIONS SHOULD PULL TOGETHER AND WORK OUT COMPATIBLE POLICIES. WOULD THE US, ASKED MOLLOY, ANNOUNCE AN ENERGY POLICY SHORTLY AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR? ARMITAGE SAID THAT SECRETARY HAD USED PHRASE WITHIN QUOTE MEASURABLE TIME, UNQUOTE BUT, DESPITE PRESS PRODDING, HE HAD NOT GONE BEYOND THAT.

3. MOLLOY ASKED IF THE US STILL BELIEVED QUOTE STEP-BY-STEP UNQUOTE APPROACH IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS MOST LIKELY TO BE FRUITFUL. ARMITAGE EXPLAINED THAT MIDDLE EAST WAS OUR MOST INTRACTABLE PROBLEM AND ONE THAT DEMANDED VERY

SERIOUS ATTENTION. AT VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT, IT APPEARED THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE QUOTE NOT UNHELPFUL UNQUOTE AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THEIR APPROACH WILL IMPROVE, BUT TRYING TO SOLVE AT ONCE ALL THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AT A RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS UNREALISTIC. CAREFUL PREPARATION AND THE WILL OF THOSE INVOLVED WOULD BE OF KEY IMPORTANCE, THUS THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH APPEARED TO OFFER MOST CONSTRUCTIVE OPTION.

4. MOLLOY ASKED ABOUT THE TRADE BILL AND WAS TOLD WE HAD PUSHED HARD FOR PASSAGE AND MIGHT KNOW THE RESULTS IN A FEW DAYS. ON CYPRUS, ARMITAGE EXPLAINED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS STILL TRYING TO ENSURE THAT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO RESTRICT AID TO TURKEY DID NOT INTERFERE WITH ATTEMPTS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT.

5. MOLLOY SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD WITH INTEREST, AND SOME APPREHENSION, TO THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WHEN IRELAND WOULD HOLD THE EC CHAIR. HE THOUGHT US-EC RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED OVER SITUATION OF NINE MONTHS AGO. ARMITAGE STRESSED THAT HE HOPED MOLLOY WOULD CARRY MESSAGE BACK TO DUBLIN THAT US KEENLY INTERESTED IN IMPROVED CONSULTATION WITH EC AND WOULD, IN PARTICULAR, HOPE TO CONSULT REGULARLY IN WASHINGTON WITH AMBASSADOR AND HIS EMBASSY. MOLLOY SAID IT WAS ALWAYS DIFFICULT TO SPEAK FOR THE NINE. DIRECTOR PREEG OF EUR/RPE EX-CONFIDENTIAL

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PLAINED THAT US WAS STILL EXPERIMENTING WITH GYMnich FORMULA, HOPED TO IMPROVE ON IT, AND ASKED MOLLOY IF HE HAD GIVEN THOUGHT TO CONSULTATIONS WITH STATE. MOLLOY SAID YES, EXPLAINING THAT HE HOPED TO CARRY ON MUCH AS PREVIOUS EC AMBASSADORS HAD DONE, EXPLAINING THAT EC AMBASSADORS MET TOGETHER IN WASHINGTON ONCE REPEAT ONCE A MONTH, AND OCCASIONALLY MORE OFTEN ON AD HOC BASIS. MOLLOY CLEARLY UNAWARE THAT DEPARTMENT HAD

BEEN BRIEFING FRENCH AMBASSADOR FAIRLY FREQUENTLY AND
EVEN DAILY DURING CYPRUS CRISIS. ARMITAGE ENDED BY
UNDERLINING US INTEREST IN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS.

6. MOLLOY TOLD IRISH DESK OFFICER ON LEAVING THAT A
FIRST AND A THIRD SECRETARY WOULD BE ADDED TO IRISH
EMBASSY AROUND YEAR END. INGERSOLL

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